

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application and are rejected. Claims 1-4 are herein amended. Claims 5-8 are herein cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Komura (JP '2003-029271).

It is the position of the Office Action that **Komura** discloses the invention as claimed. **Komura** discloses a printing plate used for transferring a sealing agent 2 for liquid crystal panel alignment. The printing plate is composed of a base material 11 and a relief section 12. As illustrated in Drawings 3 and 4, the relief section is topped by either pillar-shaped crevices 14 or linear recessed parts 13. The sealing compound is applied into either of these crevices. As disclosed in Drawing 2, the linear relief part to be coated with the sealing agent is shaped to be an almost-complete loop.

The present invention discloses a layer forming relief having projected portions 1 with micro-projections 2 and grooves 3 formed on top of the projected portions. The luminous substance is applied to these grooves in order to print the organic luminous layer. In the layer forming relief of claims 1 and 3, the printing convex portion to be coated with an application fluid is linear, and a plurality of printing convex portions are formed, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2(a). Furthermore, adjoining printing convex portions are aligned to be parallel with each other with a prescribed space.

Amendment
Serial No. 10/765,899
Attorney Docket No. 032111

In response to the pending rejection, Applicants herein amend independent claims 1 and 3 in order to clarify these features of the invention. It is respectfully submitted that the layer forming relief according to claims 1 and 3, as amended, and the printing plate of **Komura** have completely different shapes and alignments of the printing convex portions to be coated with the application fluid (the linear relief part 12 of **Komura**). For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that invention of amended independent claims 1 and 3 distinguish over **Komura**. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Komura.

It is the position of the Office Action that **Komura** discloses the invention as claimed, with the exception of disclosing the optimum ranges for diameter, width and spacing. The Office Action argues that these values would have been readily determined by routine experimentation of one having ordinary skill in the art.

In response, Applicants argue that claims 2 and 4 are patentable due to their dependency on the amended independent claims. Furthermore, Applicants herein amend claims 2 and 4 in order to recite that the application fluid is an organic luminous substance. Accordingly, the space, dimension and number of micro-projections and projected micro-stripes formed on the top faces of the printing convex portions are optimized based on the viscosity of the organic

Amendment
Serial No. 10/765,899
Attorney Docket No. 032111

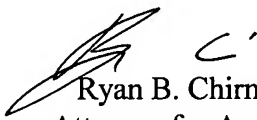
luminous substance. Please see page 7, line 16 to page 8, line 2 and page 11, line 25 to page 12, line 15. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned agent.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP


Ryan B. Chirnomas
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 56,527
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

RBC/meu